

that now extends from Piqua to Hamilton.

Since the dams and levees were completed in 1922, the Miami Conservancy District's protection system has prevented countless floods, preserving 35,000 acres of land for public use as walking trails, picnic areas and parks.

In addition, the Miami Conservancy District assists in the management of Ohio's largest state-designated water trail network with 265 miles of waterways, providing paddling and fishing opportunities on the Great Miami, Stillwater and Mad Rivers.

The Miami Conservancy District is also a leader on natural resource development and has been a key partner in projects like downtown Dayton's RiverScape, which has improved the quality of life for Miami Valley residents by bringing natural features into an urban environment.

The Miami Conservancy District protects some of Ohio's greatest natural wonders and I congratulate those involved in making its first 100 years a success.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING THE FRANCES PERKINS CENTER

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Frances Perkins Center on the designation of the Frances Perkins Homestead, located in Newcastle, ME, as a National Historic Landmark. The Brick House was the home of the remarkable Frances Perkins, the first woman appointed to a Presidential cabinet. This is an honor that has been given to only 2,500 other historic places in the United States and I applaud the Frances Perkins Center for receiving this distinction.

Frances Perkins found that no matter where she lived during her life, her true home would always be in Maine. While she was born in Boston in 1880, both of her parents were native Mainers. She grew up living in Worcester and spending summers with her grandmother on the family's saltwater farm in Newcastle. Frances credited her own character to be a direct result of her grandmother's influence and their time together in Maine.

Frances was a motivated and inquisitive person from a young age. She attended Classical High School in Worcester and, though it was uncommon at the time, she went on to Mount Holyoke College where she was a standout student. Professors immediately noticed Frances' ambition and natural intellect. Frances graduated from Mount Holyoke in 1902 with a major in physics and minors in chemistry and biology.

Throughout her life, Frances was devoted to improving the lives of American workers. After college, Frances moved to Illinois, working as a teacher and volunteering in settlement houses. She then received her master's degree from Columbia and subsequently began

her extraordinary career in public service, working for the New York City Consumers League and then the New York State Industrial Commission.

The impressive work by Frances for the Industrial Commission led to newly elected New York Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt to name her New York State Commissioner of Labor. She received attention and admiration in this role for her ceaseless commitment to improving work conditions in New York. In February 1933, Roosevelt appointed Frances Secretary of Labor in his Presidential cabinet. Frances was the first female Federal cabinet official, which remains one of her most notable and outstanding achievements.

Frances' accomplishments as Secretary of Labor had, and continue to have, a profound impact on American lives. Frances was the lead architect in designing New Deal policies during the Great Depression; however, her work did not stop there. She was incredibly influential in creating legislation for Social Security and establishing a 40-hour work week. Frances is also known for her major role in prohibiting child labor, enforcing worker's rights, and designing unemployment insurance as well as workers' aid.

Frances' beliefs, values, and spirit grew from her strong connection to Maine. Frances regularly returned to her Maine home, especially when she desired a haven to rest and remember her roots. She owned and maintained the family farm in Newcastle from 1927 until she died on May 14, 1965 at the age of 85. She is buried nearby the homestead.

I am thrilled at the nomination of the Frances Perkins Homestead as a National Historic Landmark. Frances was a fearless leader who exemplified American values of hard work and determination. Frances' work lives on as an essential benefit to countless American citizens. I am proud that her legacy is a part of Maine's history and I warmly congratulate the Frances Perkins Homestead, and all those involved with achieving this accomplishment, on its dedication as a National Historic Landmark.

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA 103RD ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the Girl Scouts of America on the occasion of their 103rd Anniversary. The Girl Scouts were created in 1912 in the midst of the progressive movement by Juliette Gordon Low for the purpose of empowering young women and instilling them with character, honesty, patriotism, and leadership skills. The independence and integrity that young women develop with the Girl Scouts is a priceless resource for these girls later in life.

For 103 years, the Girl Scouts have influenced female leaders, and have led the fight for equality and inclusiveness in leadership positions. The fact that former girl scouts make up 60 percent

of the women in the House of Representatives and over 50 percent of current female business owners demonstrates the organization's ability to cultivate leaders. Through the Girl Scouts, girls have gained skills that are essential tools to help women achieve equality in leadership positions.

The Girl Scouts have also developed and implemented programs to help middle and high school girls become financially literate and independent. Indeed, the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the world and is a hallmark program that helps girls across the country develop the skills, such as money management, customer interaction, and business ethics, which are essential to life-long success. They have also invested in science and mathematics programs to empower young women who have an interest in those fields. Through their continued efforts to develop girls' leadership abilities, confidence, and worldly knowledge, the Girl Scouts have played an important role in helping young women reach their full potential.

Today, I mark the legacy and future of this invaluable organization. I applaud the Girl Scouts of Maine, and America, for the immeasurable impact they have had on women's rights, and women themselves, over the past 103 years.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL PETER W. OGDEN

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to honor the career of LTC Peter W. Ogden, who will retire this June as director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services. Peter has served in this role for the past 11 years and I am profoundly grateful for all that he has done for Maine and our esteemed veterans.

Peter began serving the Nation and the State of Maine long before his position as director. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1967 and in the following years he completed two combat tours in Vietnam. After graduating from Maine Military Academy as a Distinguished Graduate, Peter served in the Maine Army National Guard. In total, Peter spent an impressive 28 years of his life dedicated to military service.

Peter is an excellent example of a person who brings personal and selfless commitment to his career. As a veteran himself, Peter has a complete and thorough understanding of the challenges and issues veterans face on a regular basis. He has worked tirelessly to provide Maine veterans and their families with informational services, assistance programs, and strong representation. Through his work as director, Peter has improved the lives of countless Maine veterans and families.

The programs and services Peter developed while director are essential to veterans as well as military men, women and families. I was particularly impressed by Peter's work supporting

Gold Star families through projects such as House in the Woods. This project continues to help both families and veterans cope with loss by providing a close support network and outdoor-related experiences, from fishing to hiking.

I greatly value public servants like Peter and I have a high appreciation for the essential and high-quality service he has ensured for Maine veterans during his time as director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services. I extend my sincerest congratulations and gratitude to Peter for all of his accomplishments and I wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.●

CONGRATULATING SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

● Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I bring to the fore an organization that serves as a model for coordinated economic development and environmental responsibility. Later this month, the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission, or SMPDC, will celebrate its 50th anniversary. This milestone is a testament not only to its longevity and breadth, but also to its ability to continually develop pertinent projects for southern Maine's economy. They are truly an inspiration for similar initiatives across the country and around the globe.

SMPDC is a Council of Governments enabled by State statute that serves the southern part of our great State in 39 communities. As this region forms the southern tip of Maine, it injects economic vitality to all corners of the State as the "Gateway to Maine." It boasts 300 miles of breathtaking coastline—with rocky points, quiet inlets, and sandy beaches. This coastline alone brings in thousands of tourists each year who wish to share the marvels of our distinct and special home. This region also extends westward toward the White Mountains, an area dotted with numerous lakes, fertile lands, dense forests, and crossed by the mighty Saco River. To help maintain this land for us and for future generations, the folks at SMPDC offer comprehensive planning and ordinance revision to communities to ensure they achieve the appropriate growth while preserving the land and shoreline that so characterizes the Maine way of life.

Being the Gateway to Maine, and given the recent Federal gridlock over properly funding the Highway Trust Fund, I would be remiss not to mention the commission's work to assist municipalities throughout the region in transportation project planning and management. They have rallied local leaders and first responders to address the emergencies on the roads and made the veins of our economy safer through their Traffic Incident Management Group—which in 2007 was given the Excellence in Regional Transportation Award by the National Association of Development. Furthermore, with I-95

and Amtrak pouring resources and revenue into the State, SMPDC has been essential to coordinating community action to ensure we make the most of these assets.

And even while focusing on the largest arteries of transportation in the area, the commission has not turned a blind eye to the scenic roads and healthy travel alternatives that encourage people to get outdoors and reaffirms access and economic prospects for Maine's vibrant eco-tourism industry. Teaming up with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine, SMPDC has successfully implemented the York County Active Communities Network. This initiative explores the potential for improvements and funding opportunities for those looking to bike or walk safely and freely throughout their community. The group has also added further economic vitality to Maine through its work with the Pequawket Trail Scenic Byway, which winds its way through the White Mountains in western Maine and along the Saco River. This Corridor Management Plan floods the scenic towns along it with visitors and economic opportunity from downtown Standish to historic Fryeburg.

Perhaps what the commission is most widely recognized for is their success with the Brownfields Redevelopment Project, which is funded in part by the EPA's Brownfield and Land Revitalization Program. Brownfields are abandoned or underused industrial and commercial properties that have some threat of environmental contamination, whether it is real or perceived. Beginning in 2004, the Brownfield Redevelopment Project started funding ventures throughout southern Maine to rebuild old dams, mills, and other previously condemned facilities to help reintroduce many of Maine's beautiful, historic buildings to their communities. South Berwick now boasts a fantastic renovated library and Kennebunk even retrooled a gas station to create a community ice rink, while the mills in Sanford and Biddeford are teeming with hundreds of new businesses. At an event earlier in the year, the EPA cited SMPDC as one of the top 10 in the Nation for their wide ranging success with these projects. This work is truly exciting and a perfect demonstration of SMPDC's powerful impact on southern Maine.

As the Southern Maine Planning and Development Council ushers in their 50th anniversary on June 24, we should take time to reflect on the countless dedicated public servants who have worked with unwavering commitment to better their communities. I am deeply grateful for their countless accomplishments, and look forward to the many more inspiring and productive projects they undertake in the future.●

2015 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

● Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the United States

women's national soccer team as it prepares for the first game in its pursuit of World Cup glory in Canada. As with the men's team last year, my home State is well represented on the women's team, with four players: Tobin Heath, Carli Lloyd, Heather O'Reilly, and Christie Rampone, who call New Jersey home.

These athletes and the 19 others selected by head coach Jill Ellis have worked tirelessly to hone their skills in order to become some of the best players in the world. Despite being drawn into the so-called "group of death," this U.S. team enters the tournament as one of the favorites, and I am confident that they will represent us well and make us all proud to be Americans.

While much of the world considers the U.S. to be a relative newcomer to the global soccer community on the men's side of the game, our women's team is unmatched in its esteem, having won two World Cup titles since the tournament began in 1991 and never finishing below third place. I hope that this U.S. team will build upon its rich history of success at the seventh Women's World Cup.

I believe that we will win.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:23 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2578. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following resolution:

H. Res. 299. A resolution relative to the death of Joseph Robinette "Beau" Biden, III.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2578. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the